

# What the Department Of Agricultural Is Doing

## PLAN FOR BIG COTTON HARVEST

Federal farm help specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture in the cotton states met July 1 and 19 in Birmingham, Ala., to exchange ideas and make plans to aid in assuring sufficient labor for the harvesting of the South's big crop of cotton, which, according to present indications, will be one of the largest ever grown. Prof. G. I. Christie, assistant to the secretary of agriculture, who is supervising the activities of the department under Assistant Secretary Osuley, explained the labor policy of the department. Ideas developed at the conference are expected to help in the general cotton harvest, which will begin about August 15.

**MORE THAN 6,000 FIELD WORKERS**

More than 6,000 county agent workers—6,216, to be exact—were at work July 1 in the United States carrying out the food production and conservation program, according to a report recently issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Of this number the greatest percentage are in emergency work helping the great land army to produce food for this nation and our allies. There are 2,011 in the emergency county agent work, 1,617 in the home demonstration work, and 1,020 in the boys' and girls' club work. In the 33 northern and western states there are 1,596 county agent workers in both the regular and emergency work. In the Southern states there are 1,405 county agent workers, of which 143 are colored local agents. There are a total of 803 home demonstration workers in the north and west and 1,331 in the south. In the boys and girls' club work 1,096 men and women are employed in the northern and western states and 85 in the southern states.

## FOREST SERVICE HELPS MEAT SUPPLY

Range has been provided on the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota, for 2,000 yearling steers from drought stricken sections of Arizona. Fifty-four cars were required to carry the cattle, and it was necessary to leave behind a large number of stock which were too weak to travel. This action is in line with the policy of the Forest Service looking to the fullest utilization of the national forest range during the war emergency. Fences to prevent cattle drifting from ranges will be constructed and watering places will be improved on the Black Hills area by the Forest Service and the owners of the stock in cooperation. It is planned to feed the stock next winter and after a second season on the range, to ship them direct to market.

## WAR KITCHEN FOR SOUTHERN AGENTS

A war kitchen established in New Orleans last August has led to the equipment of several hundred home demonstration kitchens in other parts of the south. They may be found in 75 of the 87 cities where home demonstration work has been introduced. Houston, Texas, having eight of them. Out in the counties, in the small towns and county seats, rooms in courthouses, schoolhouses and various public buildings have been converted into food centers for the use of home demonstration agents. State agents in Arkansas and Mississippi report that there are demonstration kitchens established in more than half the counties in each of these states.

## CATTLE DIPPING BREAKS RECORDS

Reports of the Bureau of Animal Industry disclose that May set a new record in the work of eradication and since July 1 more eggs were the cattle-typhus tick. In that month

the number of cattle dipped was 5,468,000, the largest number reported in any one month since the campaign began actively in 1906. The big figures are believed to indicate the unanimity with which Southern live stock raisers have joined in the fight to free the South from the tick by 1921. The number of dipping vats available in May was 25,911 and 338 federal inspectors, 284 state inspectors and 1,438 county inspectors supervised the work.

## CULL THE POULTRY FLOCK

To encourage the production of better poultry, specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture are now conducting a campaign urging all poultry growers to cull their flocks at this season and keep only the best laying hens for next year. In this work they are urging poultry departments of agricultural fairs, county agents, and poultry breeders to take a greater interest in poultry shows and poultry displays at fairs. In the present emergency, to use to the fullest extent the power of popular exhibitions of poultry to create new interest, it is more important to have small shows wherever an exhibit can be brought together than to have what poultrymen art accustomed to call quality shows.

## VEGETABLE PROTEIN FOR CHICKENS

Among the poultry experiments now being conducted on the government farm at Beltsville, Md., are a number of feeding tests in which the value of vegetable protein is being compared with beef scrap. One pen of chickens fed a mash containing 20 per cent beef scrap produced in five and one half months an average of 63 eggs per hen. Another pen fed a mash containing 10 per cent peanut meal and 10 per cent beef scrap produced an average of 53.4 eggs per hen during the same period. The hens in a third pen which were fed a mash consisting of 10 per cent soy bean meal and 10 per cent beef scrap averaged 44.4 eggs for the period. In other pens cottonseed meal and velvet bean meal were fed as part substitute for beef scrap with the result that the hens produced a fair egg yield, though not as high as the hens in the first pen mentioned.

## PREPARING DEPARTMENT EXHIBITS

Bureaus of the United States Department of Agriculture are preparing their exhibit material for display with the combined government exhibits which in August will "open" on five circuits of approximately 35 state fairs and expositions. Nearly all phases of Department of Agriculture work will be treated in order that the public may become better acquainted with it and be enabled to make wider use of the department's service. War activities will be stressed—in fact the big idea will be increasing the production of food to back up the boys over there.

## TO ISSUE FIGURES ON THE HAIR SUPPLY

A survey of stocks of hair in the United States, taken under date of June 30, is about completed and figures will be issued by the Bureau of Markets showing total stocks and their location on that date of horsehair, cattle hair, hog bristles, rabbit hair, alpaca, mohair and camel hair.

## LESS MEAT, MORE BUTTER IN STORAGE

Heavy decreases in meat stocks held in cold storage since June 1 are reported by the Bureau of Markets while stocks of butter are increasing. Decreases are shown for all classes of poultry. The movement of eggs from storage has begun a month earlier than usual, and since July 1 more eggs were taken out of storage than have been

## received by cold storage plants. VOLUNTEER GARDENERS ORGANIZE WOMEN

Women's garden work in Ferguson County, Mont., has been organized in a most effective way by the county home demonstration agent. Volunteer gardeners agree to form and keep interested a group of ten women in garden work. The agent meets the leaders and they in turn teach the work to the women in their respective groups. In Lewistown alone there are over 20 of these leaders which means 200 "organized gardens" in that community. This plan is being followed in all the towns in the county.

## FARM HOME STUDY TOURS

Farm home study tours have become popular in Yamhill County, Oregon. They are arranged by the home demonstration agent and the county agricultural agent to encourage better country homes, lighting, water systems, labor savers, interior arrangement and decorations, sanitation, and conservation. The tours are made by automobile, five or six farm homes being visited each day. As many as 150 farm women and on have gone on one of these tours. Short talks are made at each stop by the agents and the host and hostess are introduced and give briefly the method and cost of installing the particular convenience under consideration at that place.

## SHEEP ON IDLE OUT-OF-USE LANDS

Cut-over lands in parts of Minnesota, Michigan, West Virginia, Louisiana and other states which have heretofore been idle, are now being utilized for grazing sheep and are thus being made to do what they can to contribute to the nation's food supply. Sheep extension specialists of the Department of Agriculture are cooperating with department of agricultural extension in 12 states. Sheep raisers have been aided in securing sheep from western ranges.

## MANAGEMENT OF SHEEP RANGE STUDIED

One thousand breeding ewes, the experimental flock at the United States sheep experiment station at Dubois, Idaho, have recently been moved to the Targhee national forest reserve for summer and fall grazing. They will be kept under practical range conditions and the adaptability of range of different types of sheep will be studied and experiments will be conducted to determine economical methods of utilizing range. Investigations will also be made relative to the practicability of running sheep loose in fenced pastures as compared with the "herding" method which is now generally practiced. The station at Dubois was established during the past year.

## CENTRAL ALABAMA RAISES MORE STOCK

Reports just received in the office of extension work in the south from one district comprising ten counties in central Alabama show that during the past year there have been shipped from this territory 631 cars of cattle and 373 cars of hogs. These shipments all left from territory which until a few years ago was practically an all-cotton section. In sending in the report the district demonstration agent says: "These shipments represent live stock grown in the district, as practically nothing has been shipped in for feeding."

## AGENTS CONDUCT MILK CAMPAIGNS

Intensive milk campaigns have been conducted by home demonstration agents in many counties in New York. The purpose of the campaigns is to encourage women to solve more milk and to make more milk dishes for the families. Many graphic exhibits have been prepared and displayed in store windows and libraries. During one month 2,427 women were given direct instruction in the value and use of milk through demonstrations given by the agents.

## SHIPPING STOCK BY BOAT

Mississippi river boats hauled

more live stock to the independent Stock Yards at St. Louis during the first half of this year than they did in a corresponding period last year, thus relieving materially rail transportation, according to a report of the Bureau of Markets of the United States Department of Agriculture. More than one-third of the receipts of cattle and hogs at the independent yards in the last four months came by the river route and now practically all the Mississippi River boats using St. Louis as a terminal carry some live stock. While boat rates are a trifle higher than rail rates the stock reaches the market in better conditions and shows less shrinkage. The loss in dead and crippled animals is small compared with the loss in shipments by rail. Usually less than carloads are shipped by individual owners and a system of tagging permits the stock of more than one man to be confined in the same pen.

## SHALL THE UTILITIES BE MAINTAINED

After ten years hammering by agitators the railroads of the nation were down in equipment and efficiency where it takes a billion dollars a year of national revenues to put them on a basis of service for war purposes.

The same hammering was lowering the efficiency and destroying the credit of the nation's public utilities until President Wilson and Sec-

retary McAdoo called attention to the need of putting them on a sound business basis.

State Public Service Commissions have responded in a few states and granted new rates under which the utilities can meet demands for higher wages and cost of materials and upkeep and pay their war taxes.

In Colorado for example, the state commission, granted an increase in revenues of about \$370,000, based on state valuation of the telephone property, and allowing eight per cent income on net earnings.

The same commission under its state system of valuations had ordered net reductions in rates equivalent to half a million annually just before the war, and has now ordered reductions on rural service.

The increased rates just allowed the telephone company applies mostly to Denver and a few large cities, while in the same order rates on toll lines and rural lines are materially decreased.

National, state and municipal commercial bodies see the justice of the president's position and these business organizations unanimously back the demand of the administration for increases.

The business men of the country, who pay the larger part of all telephone charges in any state or city, ask that the credit of efficiency of the utilities be placed on a sound business basis even at their own expense.

But in each state a few politicians

who pose as the champions of the people are protesting at any step taken to rehabilitate the utilities, and refuse to permit any advances in the direction of sound business.

The mayor and city attorney of Denver scream aloud that the city of Denver will pay its bills at the old rate and defy the state public service commission to raise the rates in accordance with its own valuation.

Is this a patriotic position for any public official to take? Is it not saying to the people help break down the great assets of the nation in lines of public utility service which are indispensable?—The Manufacturer.

## WORK OR FIGHT

A press dispatch says: "Pittsburgh—Pitcher Paul Ferritt of New York Nationals received notice from his draft board at Shreveport, La., to show cause why he should not engage in essential employment under the work or fight ruling. Third Baseman William McKechnie of the Pittsburgh Nationals received similar summons from his draft board here. Both will appeal." It is hard to understand how baseball can be figured as a legitimate excuse to evade the work or fight rule when there is crying need for workmen at all times.

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